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FEAR OF TITO FORCES HUNGARY
TO INCREASE SOUTHERN BORDER TROOPS

Vienna -- According to information available here, Hungary has recently strengthened considerably its troops along the Hungarian-Yugoslav border. The total number of troops along the 500-kilometer-long border is now 10 "border battalions," or two thirds of Hungary's units especially trained for border patrol duty. The troops moved were reported to have been stationed formerly along the Hungarian-Czechoslovak border.

The units stationed along the Yugoslav border have two missions: to prevent Hungarians from crossing over the border into Yugoslavia, and to prevent Yugoslavian agents from establishing contact with "Titoists" in Hungary. The reinforcement, therefore, apparently indicates that the Yugoslavian counter offensive against the Cominform cold war has been more fruitful in Hungary than elsewhere.

That the Hungarian government has been worried over the situation along the border was demonstrated recently by the decision to merge the border patrol forces with units of the political police to form an independent organization, directly responsible to the Hungarian Cabinet (regering). Heretofore, the political police were subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and the border troops were under the Ministry of the Defense.

Henceforth, the Minister of the Defense will have no jurisdiction over the border troops; they will, therefore, be a special army within the army. The Minister of the Interior will serve as the Inspector General of the new organization. According to information from Budapest, the Hungarians at present are encountering difficulties in their effort to increase the strength of the regular army. The strength of the regular army is now about 35,000 men, although it had been intended that it would be double this number by last summer.

Hungary's problem arises in the procurement of officers and men who can be spared by industry and who, at the same time, are politically reliable. Hundreds of technically trained men were exempted from military service in the fall, but nonetheless it is reported that Hungary is suffering a serious shortage of trained

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personnel for those industries considered important by the Russians. The problem has been made more acute because the Soviet Union, after the break with Yugoslavia, has increased its consignments of raw material and equipment to the Hungarian industries.

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